

January 4, 2013

Assemblywoman Marilyn Dondero Loop, Chair
Assembly Health and Human Services Committee

Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton, Chair
Assembly Ways and Means Committee

Senator Justin C. Jones, Chair
Senate Health and Human Services Committee

Senator Debbie Smith, Chair
Senate Finance Committee

The Grants Management Advisory Committee (GMAC), created in 2005 by Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 232.383, would like to go on record in support of the Proposed Spending Plan for the Fund for a Healthy Nevada (FHN) embedded in the SFY 2014-15 budget for the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

The FHN Proposed Spending Plan was developed in accordance with statutory changes made by the 2011 Legislature. Senate Bill (SB) 421 amended the FHN statute (NRS 439.630) by removing the funding silos for FHN programs and requiring the GMAC, the Commission on Aging (CoA) and the Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities (CSPD) to conduct community needs assessments with the intention of establishing funding priorities. The GMAC met this requirement and made priority recommendations to the DHHS Director along with the CoA and the CSPD. The Director considered these recommendations while building the Agency Request budget for SFY 2014-15.

The GMAC's needs assessment process drew considerable public input. More than 3,000 people responded to an online and paper survey and 372 individuals attended 14 public forums held across the state between September 2011 and February 2012. From the many needs expressed, more than two dozen issues generated sufficient concern to be assigned rankings. The GMAC analyzed the data and listened to several hours of public testimony during three of its regularly scheduled quarterly meetings before condensing its recommendations into four primary service areas.

- **Food Insecurity** with objectives to meet short/immediate, medium and long term needs.
- **Health Care** with an emphasis on dental care, mental health, tobacco control, alcohol and obesity related conditions, suicide and childhood immunization.
- **Family Supports** with a focus on children, seniors and other vulnerable populations.

- **Help Finding information** to include 2-1-1, education and outreach, and information and referral.

The GMAC put significant effort into this process and has also spent a considerable amount of time in the past few years evaluating competitive grant proposals that reveal the serious level of need in Nevada. In the end, the committee felt that both the public will and the committee's recommendations were well represented in the FHN Proposed Spending Plan for SFY 2014-15.

In closing, the GMAC would like to point out that, while the community needs assessment process was triggered by changes to the FHN statute, the impact of the results should not be confined to this particular funding stream. The great need in our state far outweighs the limited dollars available under the FHN. The GMAC believes the results of its needs assessment, along with those of the CoA and CSPD, should be considered and referenced throughout the SFY 2014-15 budgeting process.

Complete results of the GMAC's Statewide Community Needs Assessment are available online at <http://dhhs.nv.gov/Grants/>. A hard copy may be requested by contacting the DHHS Grants Management Unit (GMU) at (775) 684-4000. You may also reach any and all GMAC members through the DHHS GMU at the aforementioned telephone number or by emailing the GMU Chief, Laurie Olson, at lolson@dhhs.nv.gov.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeff Fontaine, GMAC Chair

On Behalf of
Robert Martinez, GMAC Vice Chair
Al Conklin
Arthur de Joya
Dr. Ina Dorman
Ken Lange
Connie McMullen
Marcia O'Malley
Cindy Roragen
Pauline Salla
Kevin Schiller
Denise Tanata-Ashby